UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Stiles - 343-2374 Cook - 343-5634

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FEATURE MATERIAL

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES TRUMPETER SWAN BROODS PRODUCED IN CAPTIVITY

For the first time in more than 100 years, trumpeter swans in captivity have produced young in the United States, the Department of the Interior said today.

Within the past few weeks, two widely separated zoos reported a total of 11 trumpeter cygnets--five at America's oldest zoo, the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens, and the others at the Great Bend, Kansas, City Park.

The first of the five Philadelphia-born cygnets was hatched on June 25, according to John A. Griswold, curator of birds there. He said the second hatched the following day and a third on June 28. The other two were hatched in an incubator on July 1 and July 3.

Brit. D. Spaugh, Superintendent of the Great Bend Park, said the six baby trumpeters there were hatched by the pen (the female) on June 28 and 29.

The trumpeter swan once was an abundant and widespread species in North America with breeding grounds from Alaska to Missouri, and eastward to Indiana and Wisconsin. At one time they were known to winter in Chesapeake Bay and in the Currituck Sound areas along the Atlantic Coast, in Texas coastal estuaries, and along the lower Columbia River in Washington and Oregon.

By 1900 the trumpeter was considered nearly extinct in the United States because of excessive hunting. They have been protected by Federal and State laws since 1918.

In the early 1930's, Government biologists working the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park discovered 33 of the rare birds. This led to the establishment of the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in the area in 1935, and since that

time the species has made a remarkable recovery. Through transplantation, trumpeter swan populations have been successfully established on the Malheur (Oregon), Ruby Lake (Nevada), National Elk (Wyoming), and Lacreek (South Dakota) National Wildlife Refuges.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife began lending trumpeter swans to selected zoos in 1957.

It is now estimated there are from 700 to 750 of the birds in the wild, south of the Canadian border, producing more than 100 young annually. The wild trumpeters nest in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, South Dakota, Alaska, and two Canadian provinces.

Largest of American waterfowl, the trumpeter swan has an impressive voice. At maturity it stands 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall, weighs 20 to 30 pounds, has a wingspread of 7 to 8 feet and a snow-white body. Immature birds are grayish.

The success in saving the trumpeter swan from extinction sparked efforts by Federal and State governments to preserve many other endangered or rare species of American wildlife for the enjoyment of future generations.

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Photographs may be obtained by writing the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.